

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 OIC-02 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 HA-05 CU-04 COME-00 BIB-01
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R 182055Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4554
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USBERLIN
UFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 766
USIA WASHDC
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USCINCEUR

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXTL

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: CSCE OCON
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SUBJ: BELGRACE CSCE -- DAILY HIGHLIGHTS, JAN 18

SUMMARY: SOVIETS CONTINUED TO GIVE MEXED, BUT MOSTLY
NEGATIVE SIGNALS, ON THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN
MEANINGFUL DRAFTING EXERCISE NOW THAT THEY HAVE TABLED
THEIR OWN PRWSED CONCTHDING DOCUMENT TEXT. THEY
AGREED ONLY IN BASKET TWO, AND THEN RELUCTANTLY, TO WORK

RESPONSIBLY ON NEW PROPOSALS. AFTER A CBM SESSION IN WHICH HE HAD DUTIFULLY SUPPORTED SOVIET ARGUMENTS THAT IT WAS POINTLESS TO TRY TO BRIDGE EAST-WEST GAPS ON NEW PROPOSALS, POLISH REP APOLOGIZED TO US REP FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO RESPOND SUBSTANTIVELY. FOLLOW-UP DRAFTING GROUP HAS REACHED INFORMAL CONSENSUS ON MADRID AS SITE FOR NEXT SIMILAR MEETING. SOVIETS INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY COULD NOT AGREE TO MEETING BEFORE FALL 1980, AND THEY ARE SUGGESTING THAT A PREPARATORY MEETING MAY THEN BE NECESSARY TO REVISE YELLOW BOOK SUBSTANTIALLY IN LIGHT OF PREVAILING POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES. END SUMMARY.

BASKET ONE (CBMS)--

1. NATO CBMS CAUCUS MADE FINAL ADJUSTMENTS TO CBM MEGOTIATING SYNTHESIS AND CIRCULATED IT INFORMALLY TO OTHER DELS.

2. IN DRAFTING GROUP DEBATE, ALLIED DELS PURSUED WITHOUT SUCCESS EFFORT TO FORCE LINE-BY-LINE CONSIDERATION OF UK CONSOLIDATED TEXT ON EXCHANGE AND TREATMENT OF OBSERVERS. SOVIET, POLISH AND CZECH DELS TOOK REFUGE IN FAMILIAR ARGUMENTS, AGAIN SHARPLY DISPUTED BY ALLIES AND NNAS, THAT TEXT WOULD ALTER FINAL ACT, THAT EXPERIENCE WITH OBSERVER CBM HAD BEEN SO HAPPY THAT NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FURTHER GUIDELINES WERE NEEDED, THAT SPECIFICS OF UK PROPOSAL WOULD UPSET FINE BALANCE OF FINAL ACT, AND THAT CONDITIONS VARIED SO FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY AND MANEUVER TO MANEUVER THAT NO SET OF GUIDELINES COULD APPLY TO ALL. HOWEVER, SERIES OF QUESTIONS PUT BY UK AND US TO TEST APPLICABILITY OF THESE OBJECTIONS TO SPECIFIC ELEMENTS OF UK TEXT WERE MET WITH SILENCE. SOVIET REP BLANDLY BRUSHED ASIDE US REP'S DETAILED RECITAL OF DEFICIENCIES IN PERFORMANCE EXPOSED DURING REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REPEATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT SAW NO NEED FOR OBSERVER GUIDELINES. ROMANIAN REP, CHIDING DELEGATES FOR "FILIBUSTERING", PASSED AROUND DRAFT CONSOLIDATED TEXT FOR OPENING SENTENCE OF A MOVEMENTS NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT (TEXT SEPTTEL), TO WHICH HE SUGGESTED DRAFTING GROUP TURN IF NO PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON OBSERVERS.

3. FOLLOWING MEETING, POLISH DEL, WITH EVIDENT EMBARRASSMENT, APOLOGIZED TO US DEL FOR NOT ANSWERING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM. HE ASKED FOR UNDERSTANDING GIVEN THE "PRESENT SITUATION" AND THE "PRINCIPLE" INVOLVED.

4. BASKET TWO--AFTER REPEATED WESTERN BADGERING, SOVIETS
FINALLY AGREED THAT AN ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO DRAFT A
SUBSTANTIVE BASKET TWO CONTRIBUTION TO THIS CONCLUDING
DOCUMENT. THEY REFUSED, HOWEVER, TO ACCEPT EC-9 COMPOSITE
TEXTS AS BASIS FOR DRAFTING PREFERRING ROMANIAN FORMULATION
THAT ALL PAPERS (INCLUDING NON-PAPERS) PRESENTED AT
CONFERENCE SERVE THIS PURPOSE. FINNISH SUGGESTION THAT
JANUARY 19 SESSION BEGIN DRAFTING EXERCISE WITH HUNGARIAN
PROPOSAL ON TRADE IN MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND DRUGS WAS
ACCEPTED. NATO DELS INTEND TO USE WORDING CONTAINED
IN THE COMPOSITE TEXT PAPER AS REFERENCE POINT FOR
DRAFTING.

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5. BASKET THREE--DRAFTING WORK AGAIN WAS STALLED BY SOVIET RESISTANCE TO WORDING ON BASIS OF SYNOPSIS PAPERS, CLAIMING THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO LISTEN TO ANY STATEMENTS, SOVIET DEL ARGUED THAT THERE WAS NO POINT IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PURSUING AVENUES THAT HAD NO CHANCE OF SUCCESS. INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF TWO HUMAN CONTACTS NON-PAPERS ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY. AS WESTERN REPS DISCUSSED POSSIBLE COMPROMISE LANGUAGE AND REFORMULATIONS OF TWO SYNOPSSES, EASTERN DELS (EXCEPT ROMANIA) REPEATED ARGUMENT THAT SUCH EFFORTS WERE FUTILE BECAUSE DIFFERENCES WERE SO SUBSTANTIVE THAT CONSENSUS COULD NEVER BE REACHED IN GIVEN TIME. SEARCHING FOR COINCIDENCE OF WORDS, THEY ARGUED, WOULD WASTE TIME SINCE THERE WAS LACK OF COINCIDING SUBSTANCE. FRG AND CANADIAN DELS ASKED WHETHER THERE WERE ANY POINTS IN UK PAPER WHICH COULD BE ACCEPTABLE AND RECEIVED GENERALLY NEGATIVE EASTERN RESPONSE.

6. ON DIRECTION FROM NATO EXPERTS CAUCUS, US AND DANISH REPS WILL MEET INFORMALLY WITH SOVIET REP AT DINNER TONIGHT IN EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS ANY FLEXIBILITY IN SOVIET POSITION.

7. FOLLOW-UP--UNOFFICIAL CONSENSUS WAS REACHED ON MADRID AS SITE OF NEXT SIMILAR MEETING, WHEN AUSTRIAN, MALTESE AND ALL EAST EUROPEAN REPS SUPPORTED ITS CANDIDACY. MAJOR PROBLEMS HOWEVER STILL REMAIN ON DATE AND MODALITIES OF NEXT MEETING. SOVIET REP INSISTED THAT "AUTUMN 1980" WAS EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE FOR START OF NEXT MEETING, INDICATING MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY OF AUGUST, 1980 AS STARTING DATE FOR PREPARATORY MEETING. RESPONDING TO VARIOUS WESTERN AND NEUTRAL-NON-ALIGNED REPS WHO EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR STARTING DATE IN LATE-WINTER OR SPRING, 1980, BECAUSE IT PRESERVED TWO-YEAR INTERVAL BETWEEN MEETINGS, SOVIET REP WARNED THAT HIS DELEGATION WOULD RETURN TO 1981 AS DESIRED STARTING DATE IF NO AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON AUTUMN, 1980. IN RESPONSE U.S. REP POINTED TO DIFFICULTIES PRESENTED BY FALL, 1980 STARTING DATE BECAUSE OF ELECTIONS AND INDICATED THAT "DESPITE INSTRUCTIONS CALLING FOR STARTING DATE IN 1979" US DEL WAS WILLING TO CONSIDER 1980

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IF STARTING DATE CAME EARLY IN YEAR.

8. SOVIET REP ALSO STRESSED THAT NEXT PREPARATORY MEETING

"SHOULD NOT BEGIN LESS THAN TWO MONTHS PRIOR TO MAIN MEETING,"
IN ORDER TO GIVE ADEQUATE TIME FOR WORK OF
PREPARATORY MEETING AND TO LEAVE SUITABLE PERIOD FOR
CONSULTATIONS AND PLANNING. DANISH REP ALLOWED THAT FORMULA
IN HIS PROPOSAL OF ONE-WEEK PREPARATORY MEETING IMMEDIATELY
PRIOR TO MAIN MEETING MIGHT BE TOO RESTRICTIVE, BUT EMPHASIZED
THAT TWO-MONTH INTERVAL WAS FAR TOO LONG. FRENCH REP PROPOSED
AS POSSIBLE COMPROMISE THAT THREE-WEEK LIMIT BE PUT ON NEXT
PREPARATORY MEETING. IN OMINOUS BUT NOT UNANTICIPATED DEVELOPMENT,
SOVIET REP LINKED DESIRE FOR LONGER PREPARATORY MEETING WITH
QUESTION OF DETERMINING MODALITIES OF NEXT SIMILAR MEETING.
CITING INEVITABLE CHANGES IN WORLD SITUATION AS WELL
AS IN PERSONNEL DURING NEXT TWO YEARS, HE TACITLY
REJECTED MUTATIS MUTANDIS FORMULAR BY STRESSING THAT
MODALITIES AND CONDITIONS OF NEXT BELGRADE-TYPE
MEETING "SHOULD BE DETERMINED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BY
DECISIONS OF NEXT PREPARATORY MEETING". IN HIS VIEW "THERE
WILL BE NOT MUCH USE" IN REFERRING TO DECISIONS OF THE
PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE WHEN
DETERMINING MODALITIES OF FUTURE MEETING. DANISH REP
BACKED BY NUMEROUS WESTERN REPS IN ADDITION TO YUGOSLAV,
SPANISH, SWISS REPS, REITERATED SUPPORT FOR MAKING ONLY
MINOR CHANGES AND ADJUSTMENTS IN LIGHT OF BASICALLY
FAVORABLE BELGRADE EXPERIENCE.

9. ATTEMPTS TO BEGIN DRAFTING OPENING SENTENCES OF FOLLOW-
UP SECTION OF CONCLUDING DOCUMENT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL
DUE TO INSISTENCE OF ROMANIAN REP ON INCLUSION OF
PHRASE REFERRING TO IMPORTANCE OF PERIODICITY IN
FOLLOW-UP.
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Message Attributes

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